

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 241530Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0327

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

USCINCSO CZ

CINCLANT POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1666

1. ACCORDING TO THE APRIL 23 PRESS, PRESIDENT BALAGUER NAMED THE INCUMBENT CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, BRIGADIER GENERAL SALVADOR LLUBERES MONTAS AS THE NEW CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE DOMINICAN AIR FORCE EFFECTIVE APRIL 25. NAMED TO REPLACE LLUBERES WAS BRIGADIER GENERAL RAFAEL GUILLERMO GUZMAN ACOSTA WHO IS NOW SERVING AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTRY. (GUZMAN ACOSTA SERVED AS CHIEF OF POLICE FROM SEPT. 1969 - JULY 1970, E.E., WAS POLICE CHIEF DURING THE MAY 1970 ELECTIONS.) NO POSTING WAS MENTIONED FOR THE PRESENT CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE, BRIGADIER GENERAL JUAN NEPOMUCENO FOLCH PEREZ.

2. THE SAME DECREE ALSO NAMED BRIGADIER GENERAL ELADIO MARMOLEJOS ABREU AS ADMINISTRATIVE SUB CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE AND COLONEL KENATO MALAGON MONTESINO AS TECHNICAL SUB CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE. THE LATTER WILL TAKE THE PLACE OF DEPARTING SUB CHIEF BRIGADIER GENERAL (TEMPORARY) RAMIRO MATOS GONZALEZ WHO WAS GIVEN NO ONGOING ASSIGNMENT. GENERAL MARMOLEJOS IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS CHIEF OF SAN ISIDRO AIR BASE WHILE COL. MALAGON IS PRESENTLY ASSIGNED AS CHIEF OF THE AIR COMMAND.

3. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THE NAMING OF RETIRED REAR ADMIRAL CESAR DE WINDT LAVANDIER AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTRY REPLACING BRIGADIER GENERAL GUZMAN ACOSTA. THE NEW ASSIGNMENT
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ALSO BECOMES EFFECTIVE APRIL 25. NO SUCCESSOR FOR DE WINDT,

WHO IS NOW SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE WAS NAMED.

4. THE PRESIDENT FURTHER NAMED DR. EUDORO SANCHEZ Y SANCHEZ AS SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE REPLACING FEDERICO ANTUN WHO WAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, THE POST WHICH SANCHEZ Y SANCHEZ HAD PREVIOUSLY HELD.

5. COMMENT: NO REASONS WERE GIVEN FOR THE TRANSFER, THE TIMING OF WHICH ONLY THREE WEEKS BEFORE NATIONAL ELECTIONS CAME AS A SURPRISE TO MANY OBSERVERS. NONETHELESS, FOLCH'S TRANSFER HAS LONG BEEN EXPECTED, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE OF THE CONSIDERABLE DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS POOR PERFORMANCE AND HIS BLATANT PECULATION. THE REASONS BEHIND LLUBERES' TRANSFER AS POLICE CHIEF ARE MORE COMPLICATED AND OBSCURE BUT MAY BE PARTIALLY EXPLAINED BY HIS FAMILY LINKAGE TO HIS BROTHER, GUARIONEX LLUBERES, AN OPPOSITION CANDIDATE (AND CURRENTLY FRONTRUNNER) IN THE RACE FOR MAYOR OF THE NATIONAL DISTRICT. ALSO THE MOVE FROM THE POLICE TO THE LESS POLITICALLY-IMPORTANT JOB AS AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF HAS SAPPED SOME OF THE STRENGTH OF THE ANTI-GENERAL NIVAR FORCES INASMUCH AS GUZMAN ACOSTA IS CONSIDERED A NEUTRAL IN THE CONTINUING NIVAR-PEREZ Y PEREZ STRUGGLE. THE TRANSFER OF ANTUN, WHO OCCUPIED THAT POSITION FOR LESS THAN FOUR MONTHS, MAY BE DUE TO HIS ALLEGED MISUSE OF BOTH PARTY AND OFFICIAL FUNDS AS WELL AS HIS GENERALLY UNSAVORY REPUTATION IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

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